

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The claims are 16-22 and 24-31. Claim 23 substantially corresponding to claim 9 as filed, which the Examiner indicated contained allowable subject matter, has been rewritten in independent form as new claim 31. Accordingly, claim 23 has been canceled, and claims 24-29, which previously depended on claim 23 have been amended to improve their form, and to depend on new claim 31. Claim 15 has been canceled in favor of new independent claim 30 to improve its form, and to incorporate the recitation previously appearing in claim 23. Accordingly, claim 15 has been canceled, and claims 16-22, which previously depended on claim 15, have been amended to improve their form and to depend on new claim 30. New claims 30 and 31 also recite a plurality of spray nozzles disposed on the nozzle pipes. Support for the claims may be found, *inter alia*, in the original claims and in FIG. 1. Reconsideration is expressly requested.

The Office Action Summary indicates that the Examiner received and reviewed Applicant's Preliminary Amendments filed June 17, 2005 and October 23, 2006; however, the Examiner appeared to make his rejection of the claims as if the second Preliminary Amendment (in

which the original claims 1-14 were replaced with new claims 15-29) had not been made. Accordingly, Applicant is responding to the Office Action as best understood, and as believed was intended by the Examiner in issuing his Office Action.

Claims 1-14 (presumably claims 15-29) were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for the reasons set forth on page 3 of the Office Action.

In response, Applicants have canceled claims 15 and 23 in favor of new claims 30 and 31, respectively, and have amended the remaining claims 16-22, and 24-28 to improve their form. It is respectfully submitted that the foregoing amendments overcome the objections of the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, and Applicants respectfully requests that the rejection on that basis be withdrawn.

Claims 1-8 (presumably claims 15-22) were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by *Osiadacz et al.* U.S. Patent No. 3,965,536 for the reasons set forth on page 2 of the Office Action.

The Examiner also indicated, however, that claims 9-14 (presumably claims 23-29) contain allowable subject matter, and would be allowed if rewritten in independent form including the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In response, without conceding the propriety of the rejections and in order to expedite prosecution of this case, Applicants have rewritten claim 23 (substantially corresponding to claim 9) in independent form substantially as new claim 31, have amended claims 24-29 to depend on new claim 31, and have canceled claim 23. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claim 31 and claims 24-29, which depend thereon, are now in condition for allowance.

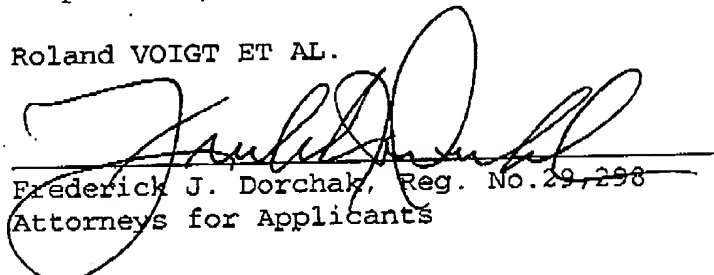
In addition, Applicants have canceled claim 15 in favor of new claim 30 which includes the recitation previously appearing in claim 23, wherein each nozzle pipe is separately impacted with similar or different liquids over identical or different precisely defined periods of time with an identical or different precisely defined pressure. As this feature is neither disclosed nor suggested by *Osiadacz et al.*, it is respectfully submitted that new claim 30, together with claims 16-22 which depend thereon, are now in condition for allowance as well.

In summary claims 16-22 and 24-29 have been amended, claims 15 and 23 have been canceled, and new claims 30-31 have been added. In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully requested that the claims be allowed and that this case be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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